



Izembek

National Wildlife Refuge Land Exchange/Road Corridor

Final Environmental Impact Statement

Appendix J Cooperating Agency Correspondence Related to the Preferred Alternative





U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mission Statement

The Mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.



Refuge System Mission Statement

The Mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

—National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997

APPENDIX J
Cooperating Agency Correspondence
Related to the Preferred Alternative

TABLE OF CONTENTS

October 24, 2014 State of Alaska letter to the Service	
October 24, 2014 City of King Cove letter to the Service	
October 24, 2014 Aleutians East Borough letter to the Service	
October 24, 2014 Agdaagux Tribal Council letter to the Service	
October 24, 2014 Belkofski Tribal Council letter to the Service	
October 24, 2014 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers letter to the Service	
October 22, 2014 Federal Highway Administration email to the Service	



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Natural Resources

OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT & PERMITTING

550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1430
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Main: 907.269.8690
Fax: 907.269.5673

October 24, 2012

Stephanie Brady
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Mrs. *Stephanie* Brady,

In response to the United States Fish and Wildlife Services' (USFWS) request that cooperating agencies identify their preferred alternative for inclusion in the Izembek Land Exchange/Road Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), I offer the following.

Alternative 2 is the State's Preferred Alternative for the proposed land exchange and road to connect the City of King Cove with the Cold Bay airport. Alternative 2 strikes a balance between the human and natural environments. We request that Alternative 2 be identified as the USFWS Preferred Alternative in the Izembek Land Exchange/Road Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

As stated in Chapter 1 of the FEIS, the primary purpose and need for the proposed action is to provide for the health and safety of the residents of King Cove by providing residents safe and reliable transportation for medical care including emergency evacuations. King Cove residents have long recognized the need for a road connecting King Cove with the Cold Bay airport. Residents have said that the existing transportation infrastructure to and from King Cove, especially in emergency situations, is not safe, dependable or cost-effective. Alternative 2 would provide safe, dependable and affordable transportation which is a significant benefit to the quality of life. Alternatives 1, 4 and 5 do not meet these needs.

The State believes Alternative 2 minimizes disturbance to key wildlife species and their habitats, while providing for the access needs of King Cove residents. It minimizes the potential effects on caribou migrating through the isthmus while minimizing disturbance on black brant and other waterfowl utilizing Kinzarof Lagoon.

The State acknowledges the importance of the area for wildlife, especially the lakes on the isthmus used by tundra swans. As a result, the State has agreed to exchange approximately 43,000 acres of State lands to compensate for the approximately 200-acre road corridor. In addition to the lands being offered by the State, the King Cove Corporation (KCC) will add an additional 13,000 acres of KCC lands at Kinzarof Lagoon ("Bookends") and at Mortensens Lagoon.

In closing, the residents of King Cove and the Aleutians East Borough, the Alaska Congressional Delegation, Alaska's State Legislature, and Governor Parnell have fought for road access to the community of Cold Bay, some for more than two decades. A road alternative is the only safe, economical, and long-term solution to the health and safety issues facing the residents of the City of King Cove.

Thank you for your consideration of a road alternative as the only way to resolve this health and safety dilemma.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Carroll', with a long, flowing horizontal line extending to the right.

Samantha J. Carroll
Project Coordinator



Post Office Box 37
King Cove, Alaska 99612

October 24, 2012

Geoffrey Haskett , Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Alaska Region
1011 E. Tudor Rd
Anchorage, AK 99503

RE: Preferred Alternative – Final Environmental Impact Statement for Izembek Land Exchange & Road

Dear Director Haskett:

This letter presents our recommendation for the Preferred Alternative for the Izembek Land Exchange and Road Final Environment Impact Statement (FEIS). We applaud the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for providing this opportunity for the Cooperating Agencies to express our Preferred Alternative to be included in the FEIS.

The City of King Cove will and can support the selection of either Preferred Alternative #2 or #3. Both of these alternatives provide for the approval of the Izembek Land Exchange and the construction and operation of a road from the Northeast Corner of the King Cove side to the existing road system near Blinn Lake on the Cold Bay side. Furthermore, both of these alternatives meet the Purpose and Need of the FEIS, which is to provide for the health and safety of the residents of King Cove by providing residents safe and reliable transportation for medical care including emergency evacuations.


Regarding the Preferred Alternative, and based on the review of the information developed in the EIS process up to now, we believe Alternative #2 is the better choice because it has a significantly shorter length in the Izembek Lagoon watershed, a shorter overall length, and likely provides less impact to certain resource concerns.

Also, please note the attachment to this letter documenting that our comments in this letter are consistent with our prior comments submitted during the EIS process as part of the King Cove Group's (KCG). The KCG includes the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove, Native Village of Belkofski, King Cove Corporation, Aleutians East Borough, and the City of King Cove.

In summary, the KCG can and will support the selection of either Preferred Alternative #2 or #3. However, the KCG cannot support the selection of any of the other alternatives (1, 4, or 5). None of these alternatives support the EIS's Purpose and Need.

Thank you for the opportunity to state our Preferred Alternative and to include this statement in the FEIS appendices.

Sincerely,



Henry Mack

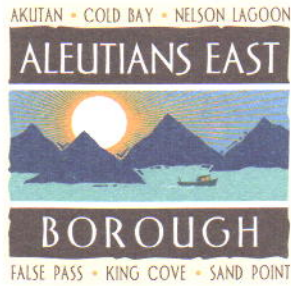
Mayor

Attachment

Prior Comments from the KCG

May 18, 2012 letter to Secretary Salazar – first full paragraph on page 4 of states:

“The KCG urges and requests the Secretary to choose either Alternative 2 or 3 as presented in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). There are good reasons to choose either of these two alternatives as described in the DEIS and in our comments attached to this letter. The KGC [KCG] does not recommend a preference for either alternative. However, it is critical that one of these alternatives be selected. Only a decision of one of these two alternatives can change the lives of the Aleut and other residents of King Cove and assure us to have a safe, reliable, and affordable transportation alternative as provided in the Izembek Land Exchange legislation and as required by your trust relationship with our people.”



October 24, 2012

Geoffrey Haskett , Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Alaska Region
1011 E. Tudor Rd
Anchorage, AK 99503

RE: Preferred Alternative – Final Environmental Impact Statement for Izembek Land Exchange & Road

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The Aleutians East Borough will and can support the selection of either Preferred Alternative #2 or #3. Both of these alternatives provide for the approval of the Izembek Land Exchange and the construction and operation of a road from the Northeast Corner of the King Cove side to the existing road system near Blinn Lake on the Cold Bay side. Furthermore, both of these alternatives meet the Purpose and Need of the FEIS, which is to provide for the health and safety of the residents of King Cove by providing residents safe and reliable transportation for medical care including emergency evacuations.

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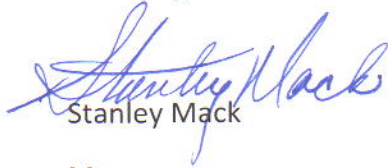
Also, please note the attachment to this letter documenting that our comments in this letter are consistent with our prior comments submitted during the EIS process as part of the King Cove Group's (KCG). The KCG includes the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove, Native Village of Belkofski, King Cove Corporation, Aleutians East Borough, and the City of King Cove.

Page 2 of 2, Letter to Geoffrey Haskett regarding Preferred Alternative/Izembek FEIS, 10-24-12

In summary, the KCG can and will support the selection of either Preferred Alternative #2 or #3. However, the KCG cannot support the selection of any of the other alternatives (1, 4, or 5). None of these alternatives support the EIS's Purpose and Need.

Thank you for the opportunity to state our Preferred Alternative and to include this statement in the FEIS appendices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stanley Mack", is written over the printed name.

Stanley Mack

Mayor

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Agdaagux Tribal Council
PO Box 249
King Cove, Ak 99612
907-497-2648

October 24, 2012

Geoffrey Haskett , Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Alaska Region
1011 E. Tudor Rd
Anchorage, AK 99503

RE: Preferred Alternative – Final Environmental Impact Statement for Izembek Land Exchange & Road

Dear Director Haskett:

This letter presents our recommendation for the Preferred Alternative for the Izembek Land Exchange and Road Final Environment Impact Statement (FEIS). We applaud the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for providing this opportunity for the Cooperating Agencies to express our Preferred Alternative to be included in the FEIS.

The Agdaagux Tribe will and can support the selection of either Preferred Alternative #2 or #3. Both of these alternatives provide for the approval of the Izembek Land Exchange and the construction and operation of a road from the Northeast Corner of the King Cove side to the existing road system near Blinn Lake on the Cold Bay side. Furthermore, both of these alternatives meet the Purpose and Need of the FEIS, which is to provide for the health and safety of the residents of King Cove by providing residents safe and reliable transportation for medical care including emergency evacuations.

Regarding the Preferred Alternative, and based on the review of the information developed in the EIS process up to now, we believe Alternative #2 is the better choice because it has a significantly shorter length in the Izembek Lagoon watershed, a shorter overall length, and likely provides less impact to certain resource concerns.

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In summary, the KCG can and will support the selection of either Preferred Alternative #2 or #3. However, the KCG cannot support the selection of any of the other alternatives (1, 4, or 5). None of these alternatives support the EIS's Purpose and Need.

Thank you for the opportunity to state our Preferred Alternative and to include this statement in the FEIS appendices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Etta Kuzakin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Etta Kuzakin

President

Attachment

Prior Comments from the KCG

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Belkofski Tribal Council
PO Box 57
King Cove, AK 99612
(907) 497-3122

October 24, 2012

Geoffrey Haskett , Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Alaska Region
1011 E. Tudor Rd
Anchorage, AK 99503

RE: Preferred Alternative – Final Environmental Impact Statement for Izembek Land
Exchange & Road

Dear Director Haskett:

This letter presents our recommendation for the Preferred Alternative for the Izembek Land Exchange and Road Final Environment Impact Statement (FEIS). We applaud the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for providing this opportunity for the Cooperating Agencies to express our Preferred Alternative to be included in the FEIS.

The Belkofski Tribe will and can support the selection of either Preferred Alternative #2 or #3. Both of these alternatives provide for the approval of the Izembek Land Exchange and the construction and operation of a road from the Northeast Corner of the King Cove side to the existing road system near Blinn Lake on the Cold Bay side. Furthermore, both of these alternatives meet the Purpose and Need of the FEIS, which is to provide for the health and safety of the residents of King Cove by providing residents safe and reliable transportation for medical care including emergency evacuations.

Regarding the Preferred Alternative, and based on the review of the information developed in the EIS process up to now, we believe Alternative #2 is the better choice because it has a significantly shorter length in the Izembek Lagoon watershed, a shorter overall length, and likely provides less impact to certain resource concerns.

Also, please note the attachment to this letter documenting that our comments in this letter are consistent with our prior comments submitted during the EIS process as part of the King Cove Group's (KCG). The KCG includes the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove, Native Village of Belkofski, King Cove Corporation, Aleutians East Borough, and the City of King Cove.

Page 2 of 2, Letter to Geoffrey Haskett regarding Preferred Alternative/Izembek FEIS, 10-24-12

In summary, the KCG can and will support the selection of either Preferred Alternative #2 or #3. However, the KCG cannot support the selection of any of the other alternatives (1, 4, or 5). None of these alternatives support the EIS's Purpose and Need.

Thank you for the opportunity to state our Preferred Alternative and to include this statement in the FEIS appendices.

Sincerely,

Jim Kenezuroff
President

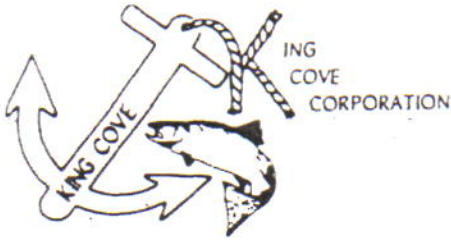
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jim Kenezuroff", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" being particularly prominent.

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PO Box 38, King Cove, Alaska 99612

(Phone) 907-497-2312 (Fax) 907-497-2444

kcc@arctic.net

October 24, 2012

Geoffrey Haskett , Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Alaska Region
1011 E. Tudor Rd
Anchorage, AK 99503

RE: Preferred Alternative – Final Environmental Impact Statement for Izembek Land Exchange & Road

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The King Cove Corporation will and can support the selection of either Preferred Alternative #2 or #3. Both of these alternatives provide for the approval of the Izembek Land Exchange and the construction and operation of a road from the Northeast Corner of the King Cove side to the existing road system near Blinn Lake on the Cold Bay side. Furthermore, both of these alternatives meet the Purpose and Need of the FEIS, which is to provide for the health and safety of the residents of King Cove by providing residents safe and reliable transportation for medical care including emergency evacuations.

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Page 2 of 2, Letter to Geoffrey Haskett regarding Preferred Alternative/Izembek FEIS, 10-24-12

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Thank you for the opportunity to state our Preferred Alternative and to include this statement in the FEIS appendices.

Sincerely,



Dean Gould

President

Attachment

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REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ALASKA
P.O. BOX 6898, CEPOA-RD
JBER, ALASKA 99506-0898

OCT 24 2012

Regulatory Branch
POA-2010-286

Ms. Stephanie Brady
Project Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Road, MS-231
Anchorage, Alaska 99503


Dear Ms. Brady:

This letter is in response to your request for cooperating agency recommendations for the preferred alternative in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a brief rationale as to why that alternative was chosen. Our response is to be inserted as an appendix to the Final EIS.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is participating as a cooperating agency in the EIS development process. However, we cannot recommend a preferred alternative at this time. We shall only authorize the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative, should a permit application be submitted. If a permit application were received, supplemental information would be required to evaluate compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and/or the Section 404(b) (1) Guidelines of the Clean Water Act.

The Corps appreciates your continual coordination and our involvement in the EIS development process. You may contact Ms. Heather Boyer, of my Regulatory Division Staff, via email at heather.l.boyer@usace.army.mil, by mail at the address above, by phone at (907) 753-2712, or toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, if you have questions.

Sincerely,


Shannon Morgan
Team Leader, South Section

Kluwe, Joan

From: Stephanie_Brady@fws.gov
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 12:59 PM
To: Kluwe, Joan
Cc: Brelsford, Taylor
Subject: Fw: Cooperators preferred alternative - Izembek

Stephanie Brady
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
907.306.7448

----- Forwarded by Stephanie Brady/R7/FWS/DOI on 10/29/2012 12:58 PM -----

<Brian.Allen@dot.gov>

10/22/2012 01:41 PM

To<Stephanie_Brady@fws.gov>

cc

SubjectRE: Cooperators preferred alternative - Izembek

Stephanie,

FHWA will not be recommending a preferred alternative.

Thanks,
bga

From: Stephanie_Brady@fws.gov [mailto:Stephanie_Brady@fws.gov]
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 5:33 PM
To: atc@arctic.net; dalegould2010@hotmail.com; cynthia.zuelow-osborne@alaska.gov; Amy_Rosenthal@URSCorp.com; bfolzdir@gci.net; bill.ballard@alaska.gov; Allen, Brian G (FHWA); Bridget_Easley@URSCorp.com; Curtis.Jennifer@epa.gov; danielle_jerry@fws.gov; dan_laplan@urscorp.com; dellat@arctic.net; drowley@aeboro.org; Donna_Dewhurst@fws.gov; Douglas_Campbell@fws.gov; ettakuzakin@yahoo.com; ghennighmgr@gci.net; heather.l.boyer@usace.army.mil; hmackmayor@gmail.com; Helen_Clough@fws.gov; IzembekAR@urscorp.com; joe.darnell@sol.doi.gov; julest@gci.net; Jerri.Sansone@alaska.gov; Joan_Kluwe@URSCorp.com; Jon_Isaacs@URSCorp.com; kcc@arctic.net; mark.fink@alaska.gov; mshickey@gci.net; Mike_Boylan@fws.gov; samantha.carroll@alaska.gov; smack@aeboro.org; susan.magee@alaska.gov; Shannon.R.Morgan@usace.army.mil; SSilver628@aol.com; Steve.D.Lindamood@usace.army.mil; tannal@apiai.org; tannays@hotmail.com; Taylor_Brelsford@URSCorp.com; Wood, Ted (FHWA); waswagon@yahoo.com; Leticia_Melendez@fws.gov; rgifford@aeboro.org; Jonodev_Chaudhuri@ios.doi.gov; clare.cragan@sol.doi.gov
Subject: Cooperators preferred alternative - Izembek

We would like to give all cooperators an opportunity to have your recommendations for the preferred alternative in the EIS. If you desire, please provide us a letter - no longer than one page with your preferred alternative(s) and a brief rationale as to why you chose that alternative. We will insert this as an appendix to the Final EIS. Please refrain from other issues - and only address your preferred alternative recommendation. We need the letter no later than close of business Wednesday, October 24 to include in the appendix.

Thanks. Stephanie

Stephanie Brady
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
907.306.7448

**U.S. Department of Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

**<http://www.fws.gov>
<http://izembek.fws.gov/eis.htm>**

**Federal Relay
1 800/877 8339 Voice and TTY**

February 2013

